

CAPSULE SUMMARY
BA-2312
Gills School
12112 Garrison Forest Road
Owings Mills, Baltimore County
1872
Private

Constructed in 1872, the Gills School was known as School four of District four and is representative of the many extant rural schoolhouses constructed throughout Baltimore County in the late 19th century. The school is situated east of Owings Mills and Reisterstown, between Reisterstown Road and Dover Road, and served the rural community in the surrounding area. The 1850 county atlas indicates that this area was still rural, and many of the surrounding farms were occupied by members of the Gill, Cockey, Patterson, Tagart, and Cummings families. In 1872, the county purchased a small parcel of land from Henry Schwartz for the construction of a small schoolhouse. This school, depicted on the 1877 county atlas, served the local community until 1932. Alverda Gore, a resident of Reisterstown, was the school teacher in 1881. At that time, the trustees were Edward Worthington, Henry Davis, and Joshua Tracey. Mattie Elizabeth DeMent was the last teacher at the small school and served in that capacity from 1910 until 1932, when the school closed. Baltimore County's efforts at centralizing school districts resulted in the sale at public auction of the schoolhouse. Since 1933, the school has served as a private residence, and the building has remained in the Durham family since their purchase of the property in the early 1930s.

The Gills School is a one-story, three-bay-wide building of solid six-course American bond brick construction with an asphalt-shingled side gable roof. Each of the three bays are defined on the façade (southeast) and rear (northwest) elevations by projecting buttresses. Between the buttresses, the bays are parged with stucco. The perimeter of the building is ornamented with an arcaded corbel table. The building features a central entry with a twelve-light single-leaf wood door flanked by two 6/1 windows with operable louvered wood shutters. All façade openings have square-edged wood surrounds and sills. The building experienced a phase of alterations circa 1933. Reportedly, an entrance vestibule was removed from the façade. A one-story, one-bay-square portico with a gable roof supported by Tuscan columns was added to the entry. Two shed-roofed dormers, each of which is pierced by three grouped six-light casement windows were added to the roof. A one-story, shed-roofed weatherboard-clad addition on a brick pier foundation was built on the southwest elevation. An exterior end concrete block chimney now bisects the northeast elevation. The circa 1935 garage is a one-story, one-bay-square structure of wood frame construction clad in asbestos shingles.

7. Description

Inventory No. BA-2312

Condition

<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> altered

Prepare both a one paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

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The circa 1935 garage is a one-story, one-bay-square structure of wood frame construction clad in asbestos shingles. The building features a front gable roof clad in corrugated sheet metal and a flush-vertical-board double-leaf wood door. A shed-roofed addition projects from the side of the building.

¹ Baltimore County Historic Inventory.

8. Significance

Inventory No. BA-2312

Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> performing arts	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/ recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion	
<input type="checkbox"/> 2000-	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science	
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/ settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> social history	
	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning		<input type="checkbox"/> maritime history	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation		<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:	

Specific dates 1872-1933 **Architect/Builder** Unknown

Construction dates 1872, 1933 ca.

Evaluation for:

☐ National Register

☐ Maryland Register

☒ not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance projects, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

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According a previous Maryland Historical Trust report on one-room schoolhouses, such buildings were popular in rural Maryland areas from the beginning of the 18th century to the mid-20th century.⁵ The level of funding provided by an area dictated the form of the building and its level of decorative material. As the population grew, the buildings could be joined to an additional one-room school that could later be detached if populations declined.

² J.C. Sidney, *Map of the City and County of Baltimore, Maryland, from Original Surveys* (Baltimore, MD: James M. Stephens, 1850).

³ Baltimore County Historic Inventory.

⁴ Baltimore County Historic Inventory.

⁵ Maryland Historical Trust. Survey No. CH-232.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. BA-2312

Atlas of Baltimore County, Maryland. Philadelphia, PA: G. M. Hopkins, 1877.

Baltimore County Historic Inventory.

Brooks, Neal A. and Eric G. Rockel. *A History of Baltimore County.* Towson, MD: Friends of the Towson Library, Inc., 1979.

Map of Baltimore County. Philadelphia, PA: G. W. Bromley, 1915.

Scharf, J. Thomas. *History of Baltimore City and County From the Earliest Period to the Present Day: Including Biographical Sketches of Their Representative Men.* Philadelphia, PA: Louis H. Everts, 1881. Reprinted by Higginson Book Company, Salem, MA.

Sidney, J. C. *Map of the City and County of Baltimore, Maryland, from Original Surveys.* Baltimore, MD: James M. Stephens, 1850.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property .50 Acre

Acreage of historical setting Unknown

Quadrangle name Reisterstown

Quadrangle scale: 1:24,000

Verbal boundary description and justification

Since its construction in 1872, the Gills School has been associated with the one acre of land known as tax parcel 222 of map 49 located in the Baltimore County Tax Assessor's office.

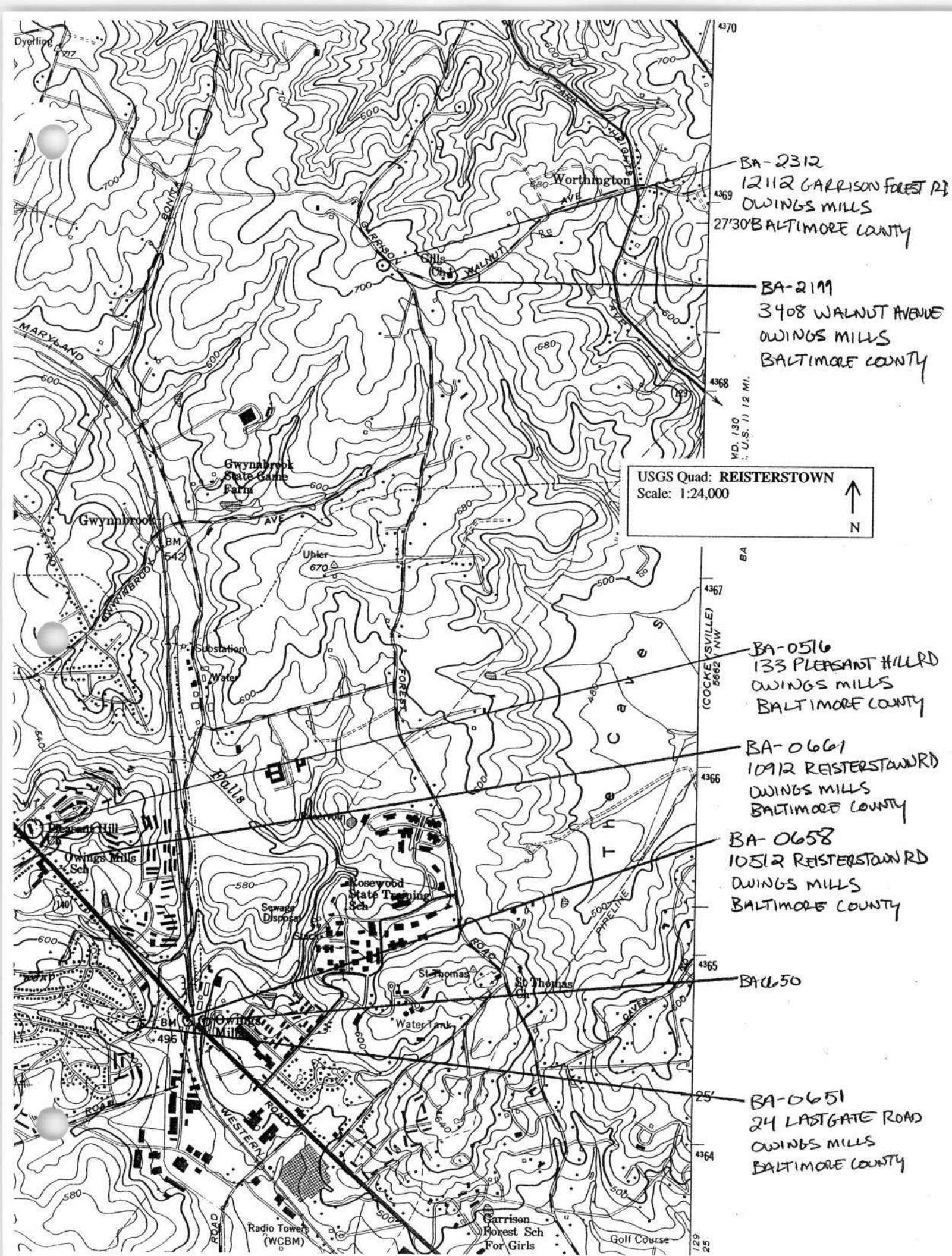
11. Form Prepared by

name/title	A. McDonald and A. Didden, Architectural Historians		
organization	EHT Traceries, Incorporated	date	May 29, 2001
street & number	1121 5th Street NW	telephone	202.393.1199
city or town	Washington	state	DC

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
DHCD/DHCP
100 Community Place
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023
410-514-7600





BA-2312

12112 GARRISON FOREST ROAD, OWINGS MILLS

BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD

TRACERIES

4/2001

MD SHPO

S CORNER

1 of 3



BA-2312

12112 GARRISON FOREST ROAD, OWINGS MILLS
BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD

TRACERIES

4/2001

MD SHPO

N CORNER

2013



BA-2312

12112 GARRISON FOREST ROAD, OWINGS MILLS
BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD

TRACERIES

4/2001

MD SHPD

GARAGE

30f3

BA- 2312

GILLS SCHOOL HOUSE - 1872 - 12112 Garrison Forest Road at Walnut Avenue. Lot was acquired in 1872 from Henry Schwartz to build School No. 4, District 4. Closed in 1932. The last teacher, Mrs. Mattie Elizabeth De Ment, ran the school alone from 1910 to 1932, ringing the bell, firing the stove, and mopping up. R. Noble Durham bought the school in 1933. Restyled as a smart cottage with dormers and side porches. Old vestibule was removed.